

**REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the interview granted by the Examiner on February 10, 2004 and acknowledges with thanks the message left on February 12, 2004 confirming the Examiner's receipt of the proposed amendment and positive feedback regarding same. As per the proposed amendment, claims 1, 12, 13, 23 and 24 have been amended. Claims 28-31 have been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-31 are patentable and nonobvious over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application.

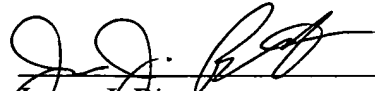
Applicant notes that this Amendment is being filed within two (2) months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action dated December 23, 2003.

A check for \$36.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for the four (4) new dependent claims added herewith. In the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to Applicant's representatives' Deposit Account No. 50-1433.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/20/04

By:

  
James I. Bitetto  
Registration No. 40,513

**Mailing Address:**

KEUSEY, TUTUNJIAN & BITETTO, P.C.  
14 Vanderventer Avenue, Suite 128  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Tel.: (516) 883-3868  
Fax: (516) 883-3869